

Saugeye

walleye x sauger



Similar Species: Walleye and sauger

Identification: Body similar to walleye dorsal (back) fin sometimes spotted; body often with saddle markings as with sauger, caudal fin has white tip on lower lobe as does walleye.

A saugeye is a hybrid between walleye and sauger. These hybrids can be purposefully produced by biologists or can be the result of natural hybridization. Saugeyes appear better adapted than walleyes to turbid (muddy) impoundments that have high rates of water exchange. Like the parent species, saugeyes eat primarily fish but also feed on a variety of other vertebrates and invertebrates. Their flesh is similar to that of walleye and they are popular with anglers. Saugeye have the potential to grow to walleye size, and individuals exceeding 9 pounds have been found in South Dakota waters.

